IN THE CLAIMS

No amendment is made.

1. (Previously Presented) A patient controllable atrial shock therapy system, comprising:

an implantable device including:

means for detecting an atrial arrhythmia event episode and updating automatically an atrial arrhythmia event status periodically throughout the duration of a detected atrial arrhythmia event episode;

means for detecting a patient activation request originating from external to the implantable device; and

means for generating a message indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status in response to detection of the patient activation request.

2. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for detecting the atrial arrhythmia event episode and updating automatically the atrial arrhythmia event status includes means for detecting atrial arrhythmia event episodes selected from the group of atrial arrhythmias consisting of atrial tachycardia and atrial fibrillation.

3. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for detecting the atrial arrhythmia event episode and updating automatically the atrial arrhythmia event status includes means for updating atrial arrhythmia event status periodically at each occurrence of a selected cardiac event occurring throughout the duration of a detected atrial arrhythmia event episode.

4. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 3 wherein the means for detecting the atrial arrhythmia event episode and updating automatically the atrial arrhythmia event status includes means for updating atrial arrhythmia event status periodically at each occurrence of a ventricular event occurring throughout the duration of a detected atrial arrhythmia event episode.

5. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for detecting the patient activation request includes a reed switch responsive to a magnetic field to operate the reed switch to provide the patient activation request.

6. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 5 wherein the means for generating the message generates messages indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status as long as the magnetic field operates the reed switch.

7. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for generating the message includes means for generating messages indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status as long as the patient activation request is detected.

8. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for generating the message includes means for generating an audible tone indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status.

9. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for detecting the patient activation request includes a reed switch responsive to a magnetic field to operate the reed switch to provide the patient activation request, wherein the means for generating the message generates the message indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status in response to operation of the reed switch, and wherein the means for generating the message includes means for generating an audible tone indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status, and further comprising a hand-held activator including:

a magnet for generating the magnetic field to operate the reed switch when the activator is positioned near the implantable device;

means for receiving the audible tone indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status and converting the audible tone indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status into an electrical signal indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status; and

means responsive to the electrical signal indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status for displaying on the activator a visual indication of the periodically updated arrhythmia event status.

10. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable atrial shock therapy system of Claim 1 wherein the means for detecting the patient activation request includes a patient activation request receiver adapted to receive a patient activation request signal, wherein the implantable device comprises additionally a status message transmitter responsive to the means for generating the message for transmitting a status message indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status, and further comprising a hand-held activator including:

a patient activation request transmitter for transmitting a patient activation request signal to be received by the patient activation request receiver;

a status message receiver adapted to receive the status message indicating the periodically updated arrhythmia event status from the status message transmitter; and

means responsive to the status message received by the status message receiver for displaying on the activator a visual indication of the periodically updated arrhythmia event status.

11-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) A patient controllable cardiac shock therapy system, comprising:

an implantable device including:

means for detecting a cardiac arrhythmia and providing a cardiac arrhythmia event status;

means for detecting a patient activation request originating from external to the implantable device; and

means for generating audible tone messages within the implantable device indicating the cardiac arrhythmia event status in response to detection of the patient activation request.

45-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable cardiac shock therapy system of claim 44 further comprising an external activator creating a magnetic field representative of the patient activation request, and wherein the means for detecting the patient activation request detects the magnetic field.

49. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable cardiac shock therapy system of claim 48 wherein the means for detecting the patient activation request comprises a reed switch operating in response to the magnetic field.

50. (Previously Presented) The patient controllable cardiac shock therapy system of claim 44 further comprising an external activator including an activator receiver/transmitter to transmit the patient activation request, and wherein the means for detecting the patient activation request comprises an implantable device receiver/transmitter to receive the patient activation request.

51. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

an implantable device including:

an arrhythmia detector to detect an arrhythmia event episode and provide an arrhythmia event status during the detected arrhythmia event episode;

a switch operating in response to a magnetic field representative of an external activation request; and

an implantable device processor coupled to the switch to detect the external activation request, the implantable device processor generating a message indicative of the arrhythmia event status in response to the external activation request; and

a patient controlled hand-held external activator adapted to provide the magnetic field representative of the external activation request.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein the arrhythmia detector comprises an atrial arrhythmia detector.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein the switch comprises a reed switch, and wherein the external activator comprises a magnet generating the magnetic field representative of the external activation request.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the implantable device further comprises a tone producer coupled to the implantable device processor, the tone producer adapted to generate an tone indicative of the arrhythmia event status.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54 wherein the implantable device further comprises a speaker coupled to the tone producer.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54 wherein the external activator further comprises:

a tone detector adapted to detect the tone; and

an activator processor coupled to the tone detector, the activator processor adapted to decode the detected tone.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54 wherein the external activator further comprises a display, coupled to the activator processor, to provide a visual indication of the arrhythmia event status.